The House re-assembled at 12.01 P.M.
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Right to land and shelter

*61. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide shelter to the poor and landless people by enacting a law like right to land and right to shelter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that poor people are agitating for land in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether some people have died due to police action during the recent agitation;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps Government are taking to give land and house to the weaker and poorer sections of the society, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Central Government to enact any law with regard to right to land or right to shelter, as the subject comes under the purview of State Governments. However, State Governments are requested from time to time to ensure distribution of ceiling surplus land, Government Wasteland and Bhoodan land among eligible rural poor. The Central Government has also been providing funds to the State Governments under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to provide for shelter and basic services and other related civic amenities to urban poor.

(d) and (e) Andhra Pradesh Government has reported that certain activists have launched an agitation on land issue. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development to assess overall implementation of land distribution programme of the Government, to suggest measures for their effective implementation, required amendments to the Act/Rules for improved enforcement of land related legislations and suggest measures for removal of obstacles in their implementation.

(f) and (g) Andhra Pradesh Government has reported that there had been a call for Rasta Roko at several places in the State including Khammam District on 28.7.2007 during the Bandh call given by the activists. There was confrontation between police and the agitators as a result of which Police had to open fire on the agitators causing death of 6 persons and injury to 8 civilians. Later one person died in the hospital, while receiving treatment. 13 Police personnel were also injured due to the agitation. The Andhra Pradesh Government has appointed Justice Shri I. Panduranga Rao,

Retired Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, as Commissioner of Inquiry to inquire into the incident.

(h) As per information received from various States and UTs 50.34 lacs acres of ceiling surplus land, 153.22 lacs acres of Government wasteland and 16.57 lacs acres of Bhoodan land has been distributed among rural poor. These include 5.93 lacs acres of ceiling surplus land, 43.93 lacs acres of Government wasteland 1.10 lacs acres of Bhoodan land distributed in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Government under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has launched the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme to assist cities and towns for taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor in 63 selected cities and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) for taking up housing and slum upgradation programmes in non-Mission cities. Both BSUP and IHSDP Schemes are under implementation since December, 2005. The duration of JNNURM is seven years beginning from the year 2005-06.

In so far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, 16 projects under the BSUP programme and 26 projects under the IHSDP programme have been approved and which are at various stages of implementation.

Apart from the above, the Andhra Pradesh Government has reported that they have launched a programme titled "INDIRAMMA" for providing pucca house for all eligible in a phased manner in three years from 2006-07 onwards.

**New rules for protection of wild tigers**

*62. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any request to China for lifting the ban on trading in tiger parts;

(b) if so, the steps which are being taken to protect wild tiger from depletion;

(c) whether any attempt has been made to amend the existing rules in this regard; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to frame new rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No Sir. In fact, India has banned trade in the body parts (and their derivatives) of tiger and other wild animals included in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Hence, requesting China to lift the ban on trade in tiger parts does not arise.

(b) The initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of wild animals including the tiger are given the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 has been amended during 2006 to provide enabling provisions for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau, which have already been constituted for strengthening tiger conservation and protection of our wildlife. The penalties for offences relating to tiger reserves have been made more stringent.